

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic device having communication unit
executing authentication by a specific identification
code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

5 a switch capable of switching between a first
state and a second state;

an inhibition unit configured to inhibit the
authentication by the specific identification code when
the switch is set in the first state; and

10 a permission unit configured to permit the
authentication by the specific identification code when
the switch is set in the second state.

2. A device according to claim 1, further
comprising:

15 a time detection unit configured to detect whether
a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is
set in the second state; and

a control unit configured to inhibit the
authentication by the specific identification code when
20 the time detection unit detects that the predetermined
time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second
state.

3. An electronic device having radio communica-
tion unit executing authentication by a specific
25 identification code in creating a link to another
device, comprising:

a storage unit storing a management information

09934764.062304
FOE280 4924E660

a switch capable of switching between a first state and a second state;

a permission unit configured to permit change of the management information stored in the management information storage unit when the switch is set in the second state.

a time detection unit configured to detect whether a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state; and

5. An electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

```

        a device code storage unit storing a device code
of each linked device;

```

an authentication unit configured to execute, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device and the device code of the device is not stored in the device code storage unit;

an authentication error storage unit storing the device code of the device and the number of times of error occurrence in correspondence with each other when the authentication unit determines that the authentication fails; and

a control unit configured to reject the connection request from the device having the corresponding device code when the number of times of error occurrence stored in the authentication error storage unit exceeds a predetermined number of times.

6. An electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

an authentication unit configured to execute, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device;

a creation unit configured to create link information to a device for which it is determined that the authentication is successful;

a registration unit configured to register the

created link information in correspondence with the device; and

a deletion unit configured to delete link information of a device which is determined as an unnecessary device in accordance with a predetermined rule when the number of registered devices with the link information exceeds an allowable number.

7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the registration unit registers a last connection time of each device in correspondence with the link information of each device, and

the deletion unit deletes, of pieces of link information registered in the registration unit, link information of a device having an oldest connection time.

8. A device according to claim 6, wherein the registration unit registers a registration time in correspondence with the link information of each device, and

the deletion unit deletes, of pieces of link information registered in the registration unit, link information of a device having an oldest registration time.

9. A device according to claim 6, wherein the registration unit registers the number of times of connection of each device in correspondence with the link information of each device, and

the deletion unit deletes, of pieces of link information registered in the registration unit, link information of a device having a smallest number of times of connection.

5 10. An electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

10 a storage unit storing the specific identification code;

 an authentication unit configured to execute, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code stored in the storage unit when a connection request is received from another device;

15 a creation unit configured to create link information to a device for which it is determined that the authentication is successful;

20 a registration unit configured to register the created link information in correspondence with the device; and

 a deletion unit configured to delete all pieces of registered link information when the specific identification code stored in the storage unit is changed.

25 11. An electronic device which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, comprising:

093474 0830 4924E660

an exchangeable radio communication unit to be connected to another device;

a storage unit storing an identification code unique to the radio communication unit;

5 an authentication unit configured to execute, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device;

10 a creation unit configured to create link information to a device for which it is determined that the authentication is successful, on the basis of the identification code of the radio communication unit, which is stored in the storage unit;

15 a registration unit configured to register the created link information in correspondence with the device; and

a deletion unit configured to delete all pieces of link information registered in the registration unit when the radio communication unit is exchanged.

20 12. A connection control method used for an electronic device having communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, and a switch capable of switching between a first state and a second state, comprising:

25 permitting the authentication by the specific identification code when the switch is set in the

0934764.082304
FOE2280-4924E660

inhibiting the authentication by the specific identification code when the switch is set in the first state.

determining whether it is detected that a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state; and

14. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, a memory storing a management information management information used for connection to another device, and a switch capable of switching between a first state and a second state, comprising:

inhibiting change of the management information stored in the memory when the switch is set in the first state.

15. A method according to claim 14, further

determining whether a predetermined time has elapsed after the switch is set in the second state; and

5 inhibiting change of the management information
stored in the memory when the predetermined time has
elapsed after the switch is set in the second state.

16. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, a first memory for storing a device code of each linked device, and a second memory for storing the device code and the number of times of error occurrence of another device in correspondence with each other, comprising:

executing, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device and the device code of the device is not stored in the first memory;

20 storing the device code of the device and the
number of times of error occurrence in the second
memory in correspondence with each other when it is
determined by the authentication that the
authentication fails; and

25 rejecting the connection request from the device
 having the corresponding device code when the number of
 times of error occurrence stored in the second memory

exceeds a predetermined number of times.

17. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, and a memory for storing link information to another device in correspondence with the device, comprising:

executing, for the device, the authentication by the specific identification code when a connection request is received from another device;

creating link information to a device for which it is determined by the authentication that the authentication is successful;

registering the link information in correspondence with the device and, when the number of registered devices with the link information exceeds an allowable number, deleting link information of a device which is determined as an unnecessary device in accordance with a predetermined rule.

18. A connection control method used for an electronic device having radio communication unit which requires authentication by a specific identification code in creating a link to another device, a first memory for storing the specific identification code, and a second memory for storing link information of another device in correspondence with the device, comprising:

```

5         creating link information to a device for which it
        is determined by the authentication that the
        authentication is successful;

```

10 deleting all pieces of link information registered
in the second memory when the specific identification
code stored in the first memory is changed.

executing, for the device, the authentication by
the specific identification code stored in the first
memory when a connection request is received from
another device;

creating link information to a device for which it is determined by the authentication that the

authentication is successful, on the basis of the identification code of the radio communication unit, which is stored in the first memory;

5 registering the link information in the second memory in correspondence with the device; and

deleting all pieces of link information registered in the second memory when the radio communication unit is exchanged.

0934764.082301